

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated July 28, 2006. Claims 1 and 5 to 9 are pending in the application, with Claims 2 to 4 having been cancelled, and Claims 8 and 9 having been withdrawn from consideration. Claims 1 and 5 to 7 have been amended. Of the claims presented for examination, Claim 1 is in independent form. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 8 and 9 were withdrawn from consideration pursuant to a restriction requirement. In this regard, Applicant wishes to affirm his election to prosecute the Group I claims (Claims 1 to 7). The restriction requirement is, however, traversed.

Traversal is on the ground that there would not be undue burden in examining the three groups of claims in a single application. In particular, MPEP § 808 makes clear that in order to require restriction between independent or distinct inventions, reasons for insisting upon a restriction requirement, such as undue burden, must also be shown. In the present instance, it is not believed that there would be undue burden in examining the three groups of claims in a single application, since the three groups of claims are not so different as would require a burden on the Examiner that is significantly beyond that of the normal burdens of examination.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the restriction requirement are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 to 5 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for alleged indefiniteness. Claims 2 to 4 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. The amendments to Claims 1, 5 and 7 are seen to attend to

this rejection. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are therefore respectfully requested.

Claims 1 to 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,982,974 (Saleh). Reconsideration and withdrawal are respectfully requested.

The present invention generally concerns a reconfigurable optoelectronic circuit having an alterable internal configuration, comprising a plurality of logic blocks and a sheet-shaped optical transmission medium interconnecting the logic blocks. Each of the logic blocks has an alterable internal configuration including a plurality of logic elements selectively connected via electric wires and switches such that the connection of the logic elements can be switched. Each of the logic elements has an alterable internal configuration. The interconnection of the logic blocks via the optical transmission medium is alterable.

Thus, among its many features, the present invention provides that (i) a reconfigurable optoelectronic circuit has an alterable internal configuration, (ii) each of a plurality of logic blocks included in the reconfigurable optoelectronic circuit has an alterable internal configuration, (iii) each of a plurality of logic elements included in each of the logic blocks has an alterable internal configuration, and (iv) an interconnection of the logic blocks via a sheet-shaped optical transmission medium is alterable.

By virtue of features (i) to (iii), in which an internal configuration is alterable in three stages, the flexibility of altering configuration of the circuit is improved. By virtue of feature (iv), crosstalk between optical connections or between electrical connections is reduced and the number of switches can be reduced.

The applied reference of Saleh is not seen to disclose or suggest at least the foregoing features.

As understood by Applicant, Saleh discloses a switching apparatus which includes a switching matrix and control circuitry. See Saleh, Abstract. A router 100 supports interfaces including, but not limited to, optical signal interfaces (e.g., SONET), a user interface module 150, and a management system 160. Internal input signals 170 and internal output signals 180 may be electrical or optical in nature. See Saleh, Figure 1A; and column 7, lines 28 to 32.

However, nothing in Saleh is seen to disclose or suggest an internal configuration which is alterable in three stages. Accordingly, Saleh could not be seen to disclose that (i) a reconfigurable optoelectronic circuit has an alterable internal configuration, (ii) each of a plurality of logic blocks included in the reconfigurable optoelectronic circuit has an alterable internal configuration, (iii) each of a plurality of logic elements included in each of the logic blocks has an alterable internal configuration. Furthermore, Saleh is not seen to disclose or suggest use of a sheet-shaped optical transmission, muchless that an interconnection of the logic blocks via the sheet-shaped optical transmission medium is alterable. Moreover, Saleh is not seen to suggest the attendant benefits provided by the foregoing features.

Accordingly, based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, independent Claim 1 as amended is believed to be allowable over the applied reference.

The other claims in the application are each dependent from the independent claim and are believed to be allowable over the applied reference for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is deemed to define an additional aspect of the

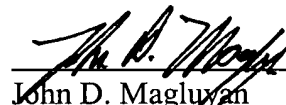
invention, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

A Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement accompanies this filing.

No other matters being raised, it is believed that the entire application is fully in condition for allowance, and such action is courteously solicited.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John D. Magluyan", is written over a horizontal line.

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